

Seneca Street Revitalization

CazPark Revitalization Action Plan Overview

University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning Study

OVERVIEW

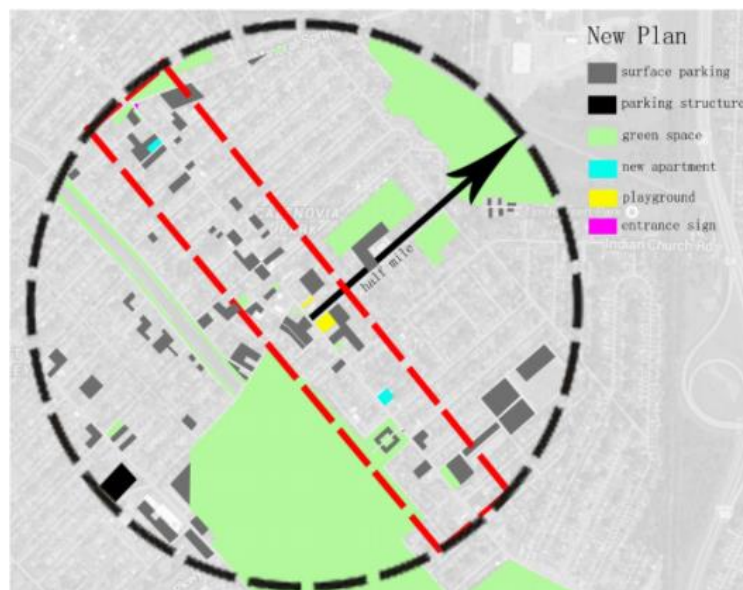
The Seneca Street Revitalization Plan supplies the community of Buffalo with feasible steps that favor the implementation of widespread improvements to the historic Seneca Street between Mineral Springs Road and Willink Avenue. The major concerns of the current businesses and residents are as follows: lack of businesses and commercial shops, vacant buildings, property neglect, irregular streetscape inhibiting the ease of movement of pedestrians and bikers, perception of crime, lack of a unified body to convey needs of the street community. The Revitalization Plan will take a three-pronged approach focusing on the *Stabilization* of the street, the *Growth* period, and the *Vision* of the future that furthers a multi-generational solution to the street's revival and integration with Cazenovia Park.

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

1. **Crime and Safety** - The need to shift the common perception of Seneca Street as an unsafe space into a place where all generations feel comfortable walking to the store or going to school.
2. **Healthy Community** - The need for Seneca Street to be walkable for all pedestrians and the need to transform the neglected land areas into spaces that foster community activities such as community gardens and farmers markets.
3. **Landscape and Streetscape** - The need to improve aesthetics through the planting of trees contributing to the canopy design historic to the area, repainting the bike lane with the addition of bike racks, and the alteration of sidewalks to ensure unity and accessibility.
4. **Economic Development** - The need to decrease vacancies by appealing to new business ventures to foster economic growth and integration with the public.
5. **Transportation** - The need to favor walkability by decreasing speed limit and revitalizing sidewalks.

6. **Recreation**- The need to attract visitors from Cazenovia Park to Seneca Street by adding recreation areas and increasing events held on Seneca Street proper.
7. **Storefronts, Business, and Housing** - The need to increase the basic maintenance of buildings and increase transparency of the storefronts to entice pedestrians.
8. **Community Development** - The need to create a Community Based organization that represents Seneca Street, such as a block club in order to garner support for future funding and to implement local maintenance regulations.

NEW PLAN OVERVIEW & LOCATION



MILESTONES

Stabilization (6 months - 1 year)

Revival of storefronts, streetscapes and landscapes to make the area visually inviting to pedestrians.

Streetscape Recommendations

Pocket Parks - Corner lot between Seneca Street and Mineral Springs Road

- Visually enhances the neighborhood
- Simple beautification with the addition of fountains, greenery helps augment the space to host summer concerts & markets



Pedestrian Pocket Park Design
Source: Pinterest

Enhance Crosswalks & Improve Bike Infrastructure

- Increases walkability to the entrance of Cazenovia Park
- Through outreach to community orgs like GoBike Buffalo, the focus of the street shifts to promoting community health and transportation



Mid-block Pedestrian Crossing Design
Source: NACTO.org

Storefront Recommendations

Basic Storefront Repairs

- Buildings need a repaint and windows need to be unblocked
- Immediate action possible with high reward
- Local artists can contribute to dynamic designs

Café style 'Pop Up' Seating Outside Businesses

- Contributes to the visual appeal of the area
- Increase street activity and conception of street as a public space



Divadero Street Parklet & Pop Up Cafe , San Francisco CA
Source: Archpaper.com

Growth (1-5 years)

Business centered improvements.

Streetscape Recommendations

Outdoor Exercise area and Park

- Appeals to multiple generations and improves recreation amenities which draws people to the area

Neighborhood Gateway Signage

- Establishes an entrance and encourages the idea of a unified neighborhood



University Heights Gateway Signage, San Diego CA

Storefront Recommendations

New Signage and Awnings

- Improves the look of business while adding color and advertising
- Contributes to increased customers

Reinvent Shea's Theatre Space for Increased Occupancy

- Contributes to restoring its historic marquee while paving the way for new innovative occupants



Storefront Upgrade - New Awnings

Community Organizing Recommendations

Establish a Community Organization

- Implement a block club to garner support for future funding and to implement local maintenance regulations

Vision (5-10 years)

Establish the area's safety and security while creating a framework where Cazenovia Park and Seneca Street are integrated into one space.

Streetscape Recommendations

Further Improvements

- Improve housing along the street, create wider sidewalks and better unified lighting fixtures

Increase Police Visibility for Increased Safety

- A crucial issue mentioned by current residents that they wanted a more safe and secure environment
- Consistent policing coupled with increased community interactions with achieve this goal

Storefront Recommendations

Reduce vacancy

- Goal reduce vacancy to 5-10% in 10 years
- Developers and Government Assistance are recommended